

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Gene Dodaro Comptroller General U.S. Government Accountability Office 441 G Street NW Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Department of Labor's (Labor) Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) provides international technical assistance to promote and enforce workers' rights and to reduce child labor, and in FY 2012 ILAB funded approximately \$66,500,000 in grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to support these activities. As part of its international technical assistance program, ILAB partners with the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Better Work program, which seeks to improve labor conditions in global supply chains, with a particular focus on the apparel industry. ILAB is funding Better Work programs in various countries, including Haiti and Vietnam, which are selected based on their significance to international apparel production, labor rights history, and importance to U.S. national security interests. ILAB also funds international programs to combat child labor, including prevention and educational programs, policy development, and capacity building.

In a 2007 review of U.S. programs to combat human trafficking, which included ILAB's programs to combat child labor, GAO found that U.S.-funded anti-trafficking projects often lack important elements that allow the projects to be monitored, and little is known about project impact due to difficulties in conducting evaluations. GAO recommended that U.S. agencies, including Labor, consider actions to (1) improve information about project impact on human trafficking and (2) address monitoring and evaluation in project design.

As part of its oversight of ILAB's international technical assistance funding and to inform Congressional deliberations over the cost effectiveness of these activities, the Committee requests that GAO:

- 1. Identify the amounts, types, and recipients of ILAB international technical assistance funding and the process and criteria used by ILAB to identify and select the recipients of those funds.
- 2. Examine ILAB's financial controls over these funds and explain what those are.

3. Review ILAB's efforts to monitor, evaluate, and determine the extent to which FY 2011 and 2012 technical assistance funding has achieved its objectives.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please have your staff contact John Carlo at 202/224-4515 or Kyle Fortson at 202/224-6770 to discuss the scope and objectives of your study.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch Ranking Member

Senate Committee on Finance

Lamar Alexander Ranking Member Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions